CWHRI Newsletter

Center for Women's Health Research and Innovation <CWHRI@pitt.edu>
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UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH cwhri CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Announcements

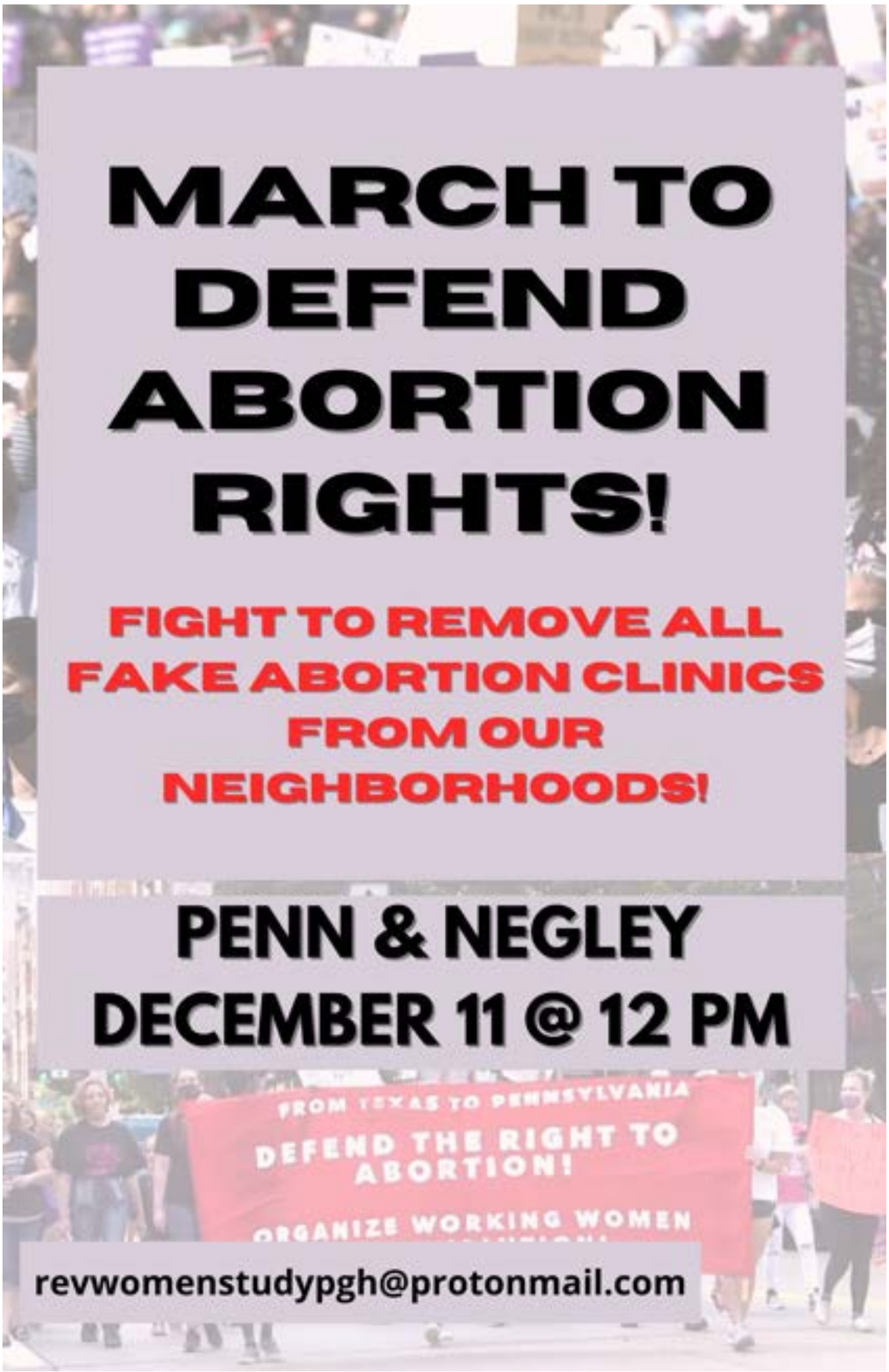
Congrats to Dr. Tamar Krishnamurti and the FemTech collaborative for her recent article published by Pitt.

If you have not met CWHRI's newest member, we have recently hired Kelsey Schorr! Feel free to say hi and connect with her at our upcoming CWHRI seminar.

The Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health case in Mississippi is an ongoing US Supreme Court case that has been pending since 2018; it will be heard by the Supreme Court this Wednesday, December 1. Planned Parenthood is holding a rally for abortion rights, this Wednesday, December 1. Check out the image below for details or their website here.



Additionally, a March against fake abortion clinics is occurring on December 11. Please see the flyer below for event details or reach out to Eve at revwomenstudypgh@protonmail.com.



Highlighted Publications

Dr. Traci Kazmerski and her team studied the unaddressed challenges faced by women with cystic fibrosis. As women with CF are living longer and healthier lives, more support around sexual health, reproductive health, & parenthood are needed.



According to Dr. Traci Kazmerski's latest study, [child neurologists do not consistently provide comprehensive reproductive healthcare for patients with epilepsy](#).

Reproductive Healthcare for Adolescent and Young Adult Women with Epilepsy

Evaluating child neurologists' knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding sexual and reproductive health care

Most child neurologists believed they should counsel patients on:

- **99%** Teratogenesis
- **96%** Contraception-antiseizure medication interactions
- **95%** Pregnancy
- **89%** Contraception
- **70%** Folic acid supplementation

While child neurologists believe that they are responsible for sexual and reproductive health counseling, only:

62% routinely discuss sexual and reproductive health topics with patients with mild intellectual disabilities, and

67% with patients without intellectual disabilities

21% routinely discuss sexual abuse with patients with mild intellectual disabilities, and

16% with patients without intellectual disabilities

55% routinely discuss long acting reversible contraception with patients with mild intellectual disabilities, and

58% with patients without intellectual disabilities

40% routinely discuss barrier methods as contraception with patients with mild intellectual disabilities, and

55% with patients without intellectual disabilities

20% routinely discuss interactions between antiseizure medications and estrogen-containing contraception with patients with mild intellectual disabilities, and

32% with patients without intellectual disabilities

38% routinely discuss epilepsy and pregnancy with patients with mild intellectual disabilities, and

40% with patients without intellectual disabilities

There are several gaps in sexual and



Upcoming Meetings



Practice Talk: Reproductive Autonomy and Reproductive Health Care in Rheumatology

With Mehret Birru Talabi, MD, PhD

December 3, 2021 at 11:00am

Work in progress talk about how to center reproductive autonomy within the reproductive health care of patients with rheumatic diseases.

We will send the Zoom link out on the morning of December 3, 2021.

Reproductive Bridges Coalition Meeting

December 14, 2021 at 5:00pm

The coalition comprises women's health champions across the region who are committed to expanding access to high-quality, comprehensive family planning services in Western Pennsylvania through the conduct of rigorous research to inform policy, educational forums for policymakers and other key stakeholders, and supporting clinical efforts to optimize access to the full range of contraceptive methods.

Please email us about attending our next Reproductive Bridges Coalition meeting.

Funding Opportunities

- NIH: **T32,** Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award. The overall goal of the NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) program is to help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists is available in appropriate scientific disciplines to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. In order to accomplish this goal, NRSA training programs are designed to

train individuals to conduct research and to prepare for research careers. **Applications open December 26, 2021.**

- NIH: **UG1,** Research Bases for HIV/Cervical Cancer Prevention. The 'CASCADE' network will conduct pragmatic clinical trials evaluating the effectiveness of clinically proven interventions to overcome barriers and reduce failures in the cervical cancer screening, management, and precancer treatment cascade for women living with HIV. 'CASCADE' clinical trials will be conducted in intended-use environments in resource-constrained settings in low- and middle-income countries and in regions with health disparities in the United States, and will have four major scientific focus areas: increasing screening uptake, improving the management of screen positives, facilitating precancer treatment access, and optimizing precancer treatments for cervical cancer prevention in women living with HIV. **Applications due December 29, 2021.**
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health seeks proposals that are primed to influence health equity in the future. We are interested in ideas that address any of these four areas of focus: Future of Evidence; Future of Social Interaction; Future of Food; Future of Work. Additionally, we welcome ideas that might fall outside of these four focus areas, but which offer unique approaches to advancing health equity and our progress toward a Culture of Health. **Applications are due December 31, 2021.**
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Evidence for Action: Investigator-Initiated Research to Build a Culture of Health. Evidence for Action, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, funds research that expands the evidence needed to build a Culture of Health. A Culture of Health is broadly defined as one in which good health and well-being flourish across geographic, demographic, and social sectors; public and private decision-making is guided by the goal of fostering equitable communities; and everyone has the opportunity to make choices that lead to healthy lifestyles. **Applications are due December 31, 2021.**
- NIH: **R01 Research Project Grant**, Effectiveness of School-Based Health Centers to Advance Health Equity. The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to support research that investigates the effectiveness of school-based health centers as a health services care delivery model to address the needs of school-aged children from populations with health disparities. **Open for submissions January 5, 2022.**
- NIH, **R01 Research Project Grant**, Mood and Psychosis Symptoms during the Menopause Transition. The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to encourage applications that will advance mechanistic and translational research on the onset and worsening of mood and psychotic disorders during the menopausal transition (or perimenopause). In particular, NIMH seeks research that will advance understanding of the underlying neurobiological and behavioral mechanisms of mood disruption and psychosis during the menopausal transition and that will identify novel targets for future mental health interventions or prevention efforts. **Applications open January 5, 2022.**
- NIH, **R01,** Measures and Methods to Advance Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities-Related Constructs. The purpose of this FOA is to support research that will advance the measurement and methodology of complex constructs relevant to minority health and health disparities. **Applications open January 5, 2022.**
- NIH, **R01,** Patient-Clinician Relationship: Improving Health Outcomes in Populations that Experience Health Care Disparities. The purpose of this FOA is to support innovative multi-disciplinary and multi-level (e.g., patient, clinician, interpersonal, health care system, community) research designed to understand how optimizing patient-clinician communication

and relationship affects health care outcomes in patients from populations with health care disparities. In addition, this initiative will support research to (1) gain an understanding of how the Patient-Clinician Relationship (PCR) in the primary care and chronic disease care settings affects clinical and non-clinical health outcomes in populations that experience health disparities, and (2) identify best practices and interventions that build and improve PCR leading to better health outcomes and increased health equity. **Applications open January 5, 2022.**

- Society of Family Planning, Contraceptive equity in telehealth A partnership with Bayer Women's Health Care. Research is needed on how, telehealth, as implemented at the institutional level, supports or undermines the values of person-centered contraceptive care and equitable contraceptive access. **Applications due January 7, 2022.**
- NIH, **UM1,** Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Intervention Scientific Leadership Center and Operations and Collaborations Center. The purpose of this funding announcement is to solicit applications for a research program cooperative agreement to support the Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) to develop and conduct innovative behavioral, community-based, translational, therapeutic, microbicide and vaccine trials in youth ages 13-24 years at-risk for HIV and living with HIV, with a focus on the inclusion of minors. This FOA will encourage a more focused, clinical research agenda, with increased emphasis on registrational trials of biomedical interventions. **Applications open January 7, 2022.**
- NIH, **R21**, Mood and Psychosis during the Menopause Transition. The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to encourage applications that will advance mechanistic and translational research on the onset and worsening of mood and psychotic disorders during the menopausal transition (or perimenopause). In particular, NIMH seeks research that will advance understanding of the underlying neurobiological and behavioral mechanisms of mood disruption and psychosis during the menopausal transition and that will identify novel targets for future mental health interventions or prevention efforts. **Applications open January 16, 2022.**
- NIH, **R01,** Innovative Screening Approaches and Therapies for Screenable Disorders in Newborns. This FOA encourages research relevant to the development of novel screening approaches and/or therapeutic interventions for potentially fatal or disabling conditions that have been identified through newborn screening, as well as for "high priority" genetic conditions where screening may be possible in the near future. **Applications due February 5, 2022.**
- NIH, **R01,** Promoting Reproductive Health for Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities. This FOA invites grant applications that address gaps in our understanding of best practices for promoting reproductive health across the transition from adolescence to adulthood for persons with disabilities. **Letter of intent due February 28, 2022.**
- NIH, **R01**, Elucidating the Role of Nutrition in Care and Development of Preterm Infants. This FOA invites grant applications that address priority gaps in understanding the role of nutrition in the care and development of preterm infants. **Letter of intent due February 28, 2022.**
- NIH: Limited Competition for Administrative Supplements to Accelerate the Development of a Translational Research Resource Platform for Advancing Maternal Precision Therapeutics. The purpose of this NOSI is to provide an opportunity for researchers funded by the Maternal and Pediatric Precision in Therapeutics Hub to jumpstart activities for a future translational research resource platform to advance maternal precision therapeutics. The NICHD intends to publish a Request for Applications for fiscal year 2023 for a full translational research resource platform. **Applications are due March 3, 2022.**

- NIH: **Notice of Intent to Publish**, Elucidating the Role of Nutrition in Care and Development of Preterm Infants. The purpose of this FOA is to invite applications to address priority gaps in our understanding of the role of nutrition in the care and development of preterm infants. **Applications are due March 28, 2022.**
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Evidence for Action Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity. Evidence for Action prioritizes research to evaluate specific interventions (e.g., policies, programs, practices) that have the potential to counteract the harms of structural and systemic racism and improve health, well-being, and equity outcomes. Our focus on racial equity means we are concerned both with the direct impacts of structural racism on the health and well-being of people and communities of color, as well as the ways in which racism intersects with other forms of marginalization, such as having low income, being an immigrant, having a disability, or identifying as LGBTQ+ or a gender minority. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.**

Educational Opportunities

- **December 1:** The Emory Specialized Center of Research Excellence (SCORE) is pleased to announce its 2nd Annual "How to Incorporate Sex as a Biological Variable in Your Research" virtual workshop.
- **December 1:** Professor Rankine is the author of Ulysses in Black: Ralph Ellison, Classicism, and African American Literature. Ahead of his talk, audience members are encouraged to read his article “The Classics, Race, and Community-Engaged or Public Scholarship.”
- **December 2:** Join Dr. Ashley Hill and Dr. Brittany Brown-Podgorski for the new Race &... Lecture Series, a part of the Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health, and Well-being Cluster Hire Initiative. The lunchtime speaker series provides a spotlight for each new faculty member to describe their work and interests.
- **December 2:** The Inclusion Network and the Transgender Working Group is presenting a panel discussion on Inclusive Language.



- **December 6:** La Femme is a dynamic group of student advocates and leaders looking to make a change in the world. While this club was started by women, we also aim to include many others in the activities and those we help. We have discussions on domestic violence, rape culture, sexism and gender bias, and the inequality that is taking place all around us.
- **December 6-9:** Lesbians Who Tech present their DEBUG Summit, where you can join your queer, inclusive, badass squad to sharpen your technical skills and learn from experts in engineering, design, product management, A.I., and more.
- **December 8-10:** Join CityMatCH Leadership and MCH Epidemiology's Virtual Examining the Roots Conference! We look forward to sharing exceptional content from the main stage to breakouts. Plenaries and skills-building sessions will be offered live, and will be recorded. Abstract sessions will be pre-recorded and available on-demand! We hope you will tune in to join conversations around emergent topics and add to your

MCH skills and knowledge.

- **December 9:** The Clinical and Translational Science Institute Community PARTner's November 2021 health page and Lunch and Learn session will focus on HIV & AIDS - including conversation around biomedical strategies for HIV prevention, and in particular, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and microbicide development. The focus will be health equity, health disparities, factors that cause disparities, and how to reduce disparities.

- **December 16-17:** Building Unifying Systems of Care Addressing Comorbidities in Women and Girls is a virtual workshop aims to address the gaps and opportunities for advancing community adoption and implementation of gender-relevant evidence-based mental health, substance use, cardiopulmonary, and metabolic disease prevention and treatment interventions for women from high-risk and marginalized communities across the lifespan. Addressing the social determinants of health and building infrastructure to ensure sustainability of innovations will be important cross-cutting themes.

- **January 5:** Join the Reproductive Health Access Network to draft written and verbal testimony, review the Congress of Delegates schedule, share best practices, and answer any questions you may have about the annual meeting.

Employment Opportunities

- The Sexualities Project at Northwestern invites applications for two two-year Postdoctoral Fellowships in Sexuality Studies, to run from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2024. Applications are welcome from scholars who study sexuality from a social science perspective (broadly construed). Each Fellow's appointment will be a joint one: in the Gender & Sexuality Studies Program and in another department relevant to the Fellow's research interests. We are particularly interested in candidates who could affiliate with one of the following participating departments: African-American Studies, Anthropology, Communication Studies, History, Human Development and Social Policy, Linguistics, Performance Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, or Sociology. That is, the Fellow must have relevant expertise in both Sexuality Studies and one of these other disciplines, and must be prepared to teach courses that reflect that combined expertise.

- A research opportunity is currently available with the Division of Reproductive Health, within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia to be the CDC Reproductive Health Epidemiology Fellowship. During 2021-2023, CDC will be updating the US contraception guidelines. The update process will include activities to determine the scope of the update, conduct systematic reviews of the evidence to help determine updated recommendations, convene a meeting to receive external input on the evidence and updated recommendations, develop and publish updated editions of US MEC and US SPR, update and develop new provider tools, and disseminate and implement the guidelines.

- Penn State now offers postdoctoral research fellowships in most academic disciplines, coupled with faculty mentoring, professional

development, and academic networking opportunities. The University seeks applicants whose research, teaching, and service will contribute to diversity and equal opportunity in higher education. The program is particularly interested in scholars with the potential to bring to their research and teaching the critical perspective that comes from a non-traditional educational background or an understanding of the experiences of groups historically underrepresented in higher education.

Open Calls

- **The Culture of Health Leadership Institute for Racial Hearing**
  The Culture of Health Leadership Institute for Racial Healing is an 18-month leadership experience and opportunity for health and racial equity practitioners to connect with a national community of like-minded people. The program design nurtures participants with learning opportunities, access to experts, individualized coaching, peer learning and sharing, and network-building retreats. Ultimately, the program seeks to build, advance, and propel the nationwide network of health and racial equity practitioners by providing the tools and resources necessary for holding public officials and private sector leaders accountable for real progress. More information can be found here. **Deadline for submissions is December 6, 2021.**

- **Calling In, Intersectionality**
  The NCBS Conference Committee calls upon all scholars and students in the discipline of Africana/Black Studies to reflect on issues of gender, sexuality and the status of women in the world. It is time to recognize the political, economic and cultural labor that women contribute to society that is not valued and quoted as it should be and far too frequently performed without equitable compensation. The winds of change are sweeping aside entrenched systems of patriarchy and sexism and a new world is rising. More information can be found here. **Deadline for submissions is December 15, 2021.**

- **Signs Special Issue: Complexities of Care and Caring**
  Over the past four decades of feminist scholarship and practice, notions of care and caring, as noun and verb, have had great traction across disciplinary divides, spurring debate while challenging binaries of equality and difference, public and private, the cold hand of the market and the warmth of home, the rational and irrational, and paid and unpaid labor. We write this call in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, amid the groundswell of support for #BlackLivesMatter, when indeed the need for renewing such challenges is dramatically clear. Our needs for care, the reality of our embodied vulnerabilities and interdependence, stand in stark relief against the cruel indifference of neoliberal nation-states and global superpowers, with great gulfs in whose needs for care, whose caring labor, and whose fragility we value. Yet at the same time, notions of care and relationality have traveled far from their critical or radical roots in differing strands of feminism, and it is timely to reassess. More information can be found here. **Deadline for submissions is December 15, 2021.**

- **Racial Equity in Postpartum Care Challenge**
  The Office on Women's Health in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is seeking innovative ways to improve postpartum care for Black or African American and American Indian or Alaska Native low-income beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program. More information can be found here.

Deadline for submissions is December 17, 2021.

- **Outside/rs 2022**
  Outside/rs aims to build a common understanding of the challenges in accounting for outsider gender identities and sexualities. We seek to define what Outside/Inside means in relation to gender, sex and queerness. *Outside/rs* is a space to explore how marginalised groups negotiate a relation to exclusion and establish viable cultural possibilities on the margins, just as the monikers Insider and Outsider shape communities through a creation of difference. We ask: what do the Inside and Outside mean for LGBTQIA+ people? And how can we understand and challenge their impact on our collective belonging? More information can be found here. **Deadline for submissions is January 9, 2022.**

- **The Sexuality Studies Association 2022 Annual Conference**
  We invite proposals for presentations in English or French from any disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or transdisciplinary approach. Unlike previous years, in 2022 we are going without a conference theme, dedicating this year's meeting to reflecting on and celebrating ten years of our association. The Programming Committee encourages submissions from across disciplines and subject areas. Our goal is to create a program that shares cutting edge sexuality studies research, demonstrating the diversity of our interdisciplinary field as it has grown over the last decade. More information can be found here. **Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2022.**

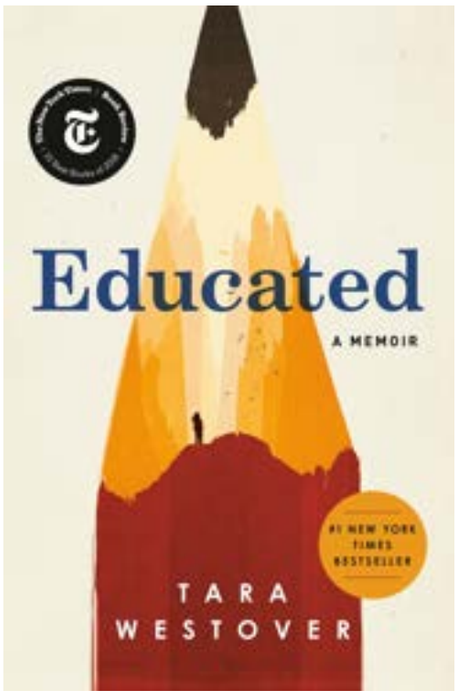
- **The 2023 Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship**
  The University of Chicago Press and Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society are pleased to announce the competition for the 2023 Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship. Named in honor of the founding editor of Signs, the Catharine Stimpson Prize is designed to recognize excellence and innovation in the work of emerging feminist scholars. More information can be found here. **Deadline for submissions is April 1, 2021.**

- **Join Live Well Allegheny**
  Live Well Allegheny represents a collaboration to improve the health and well-being of everyone who lives and works in Allegheny County. This vision calls on organizations, businesses, non-profit agencies, schools, municipal governments, neighborhood groups, and advocates to partner in coordinated efforts to ensure sustained changes that promote healthy living in Allegheny County. More information can be found here. **Rolling deadline.**

- **Become a Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee Member**
  The Pennslyvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee's goal is to systematically review all maternal deaths, identify root causes of these deaths and develop strategies to reduce preventable morbidity, mortality and racial disparities related to pregnancy in Pennsylvania. More information can be found here. **Rolling deadline.**

What We're Reading

CWHRI's Research Assistant, Alison Decker, MPH, recent read Educated by Tara Westover. Reflecting on this



book, Alison told us, "*Educated* is a true story written about a girl who grew up isolated in the mountains of rural Idaho. The book takes you through critical phases of her life, including her upbringing and her attempts to integrate herself into society. Growing up with no formal education or access to modern medicine, she sets out to create her own identity in a modern world, where she eventually finds her independence."

Have anything you want to add to our monthly newsletter? Please email us about publications, awards, events, and trainings!

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